

COMMENTS FOR RM-10867 to RM-10870

I am an Amateur Extra Class Operator and have been licensed for just at 10 years. I studied for 9 months to pass the required, at that time, 13 WPM code test for my General license. At that time felt that it was "crazy" to learn Morse Code as I would not use it on the H.F. bands...But it was the "carrot" - if I wanted to operate H.F. then I needed to learn this. After I passed the code test, I felt like I was a "Real Ham". Even though I do not use code...I passed the initiation.

I just read the ARRL/FCC proposed rule change(s) request and felt that you have betrayed every operator that had to pass the code test. I know the code is passé but to open H.F. (the Ham Bands) to every one just pollutes the bands. If we keep "dumbing down" the license requirements, we will end up giving licenses to new born babies as part of their birth certificate. Maybe that is why high school kids can't balance a checkbook, we teach to lowest common denominator instead of teaching what is really required for life. I do agree with the change to 5-WPM maximum for H.F. privileges but to open the gates to everyone would just kill the hobby. I agree that you should give the Novice/Technicians a taste of the H.F. bands with a (very) small portions open to everyone.

But, if they want a General or above license, then they MUST PASS 5-WPM. If anyone could play pro-football regardless of his or her ability or dedication, then we would not need the NFL to separate the best player from the weekend, front yard family team.

What I am trying to imply is that, just like in real life, there are those that wait for things to be given to them and those that go out and get what they want. Those that have waited are now going to only have to pass a test (if that) vice needing to go the extra mile of learning the code. Where is the pride of accomplishment? Skills of both groups may be the same but the aptitude of the group that went out and earned the license will be higher. Why, because they have learned (and earned) something the other group has not, but now both are equal. Are they? Why do we "owe" these people privileges that they did not earn?

Look at CB where not even rudimentary knowledge is needed, other than reading an instruction manual (if that) and using the PTT switch, we can see what has happened there. Hams may have rules and regulations to abide by but it will be the same thing? Is it the best for ham radio or just what is best for the lowest common denominator? Is it about numbers of operators or quality, rounded operators? Or, is it about money for ARRL membership and equipment manufacturers?

I think the majority of Amateur Operators want to keep CW as requirement for General/Extra privileges. There is no real answer to this situation, ARRL has the governments ear, has money and the power to get into the "right" people and will in the end prevail. I hope it works as well as the ARRL/FCC thinks but it never does.

You should follow the lead of the majority of operators...**KEEP THE CODE** - 10 /4 good buddy and Catch ya on the flip side.

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